

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

LC Gap Watersheds - Perennial Cropland (Grazing)

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: LC Gap Watersheds - Perennial Cropland (Grazing)	Applicant:	
Final Ranking Score:	Address:	
Planner:	Telephone:	
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Location	
1. Will this EQIP application correct deficiencies in agricultural waste or water quality oriented land management practice associated with one or more land units located in a watershed containing an agriculturally stressed segment of water identified on the State of Vermont 303(d) list of impaired waters, surface water source protection areas, or in a public wellhead protection area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Conserved Land	
2. Is this land already conserved or approved for funding under ACEP-ALE and the application will address water quality and/or soil quality resource concerns?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Implementation of a Grazing Plan	
3. Has an approved Grazing Plan (meeting NRCS standards) been developed/updated, but not fully implemented, and will be addressed with this application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Transition out of Confinement	
4. Will the applicant convert an existing livestock confinement operation (pasture is not utilized or is substantially underutilized) to a grass/pasture-based operation and a minimum of 50% of current annual or rotated cropland operated by the applicant is converted to permanent vegetation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Grazing Acres	
5. Are there not enough grazing acres to meet the grazing requirements of the existing livestock at the time of application based on a completed grazing plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Exclusion from Water	
6. Will all pastures where livestock have access to perennial or intermittent streams be treated (livestock will be excluded from surface waters or access will be managed)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Bennington Local Working Group	
1. Does this application include practices to control livestock access to streams or other surface waters?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Does this application include practices that will have the effect of creating a buffer between the pasture and the surface waters in order to improve water quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Does this application address erosion or other water quality issues occurring within 100 feet of a blue line stream or on a gully emptying into a blue line stream, and/or will it address soil erosion or other water quality concerns impacting a critical resource area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Will this application improve grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

5. Does this application include prescribed grazing for improved pasture health/condition?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Franklin and Grand Isle Local Working Group	
6. Does this application include practices that facilitate excluding livestock from water courses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. Does this application reduce erosion that causes sedimentation into water courses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Does this application improve nutrient distribution within pastures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. Does this application restore or protect riparian vegetation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
10. Does this application convert cropland into rotational grazing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Poultney Mettawee Local Working Group	
11. Will this application address water quality concerns within 200' of an impaired waterbody or waters indicating high nutrient counts according to the PMNRCD water quality monitoring report and/or the VT list of Priority Surface Waters?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
12. Will this application address Soil Erosion occurring within 200' of a blue line stream, and/or will it address soil erosion impacting a critical resource area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
13. Will this application address soil health through the implementation of forage and biomass planting, waste recycling, and/or nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
14. Will this application include practices to increase the number of water and feeding areas to improve the distribution of livestock on the pasture operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
15. Will this application improve grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Rutland Local Working Group	
16. Will this application control livestock access to a stream or other surface water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
17. Will this application address soil erosion or other water quality concerns occurring within 100' of a blue line stream, and/or will it address soil erosion or other water quality concerns impacting a critical resource area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
18. Will this application address soil health through the implementation of forage and biomass planting, waste recycling, and/or nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
19. Will this application include prescribed grazing for improved pasture health/condition?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
20. Will this application improve grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Ottauquechee Local Working Group	
21. To help address resource concerns resulting from a livestock confinement operation, will the applicant convert an existing livestock confinement operation (pasture is not utilized or is substantially underutilized) to a grass/pasture-based operation and/or a minimum of 50% of current annual or rotated cropland operated by the applicant is converted to permanent hayland or pasture?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
22. Does this application address grassland bird habitat within the Connecticut River Watershed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
23. Were conservation practices selected that help reduce nitrogen loading in any surface water in the Connecticut River Watershed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
24. Does this application address resource concerns that are a result of uncontrolled livestock access to streams?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
25. Does this application include watering facilities for livestock in order to improve grazing management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Windham Local Working Group	
26. Will this application include practices to support conversion towards a forage or grass based operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
27. Will this application include practices to control livestock access to streams or will it improve aquatic organism passage?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
28. Will this application include implementation of prescribed grazing for improved pasture health/condition?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
29. Will this application improve grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
30. Will this application include practices that help reduce nitrogen loading into surface waters that feed into the Connecticut River?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Caledonia Local Working Group	

31. Does application address excluding livestock from streams and waterways?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
32. Does this application include practices that control soil erosion on pasture and perennial cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
33. Does the application include a nutrient management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
34. Does the application include practices that improve soil health by reducing compaction, improving fertility and/or building organic matter?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
35. Will this application include practices that will enhance grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Lamoille Local Working Group	
36. Does this application include practices that facilitate excluding livestock from water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
37. Does this application reduce erosion that causes sedimentation into water courses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
38. Does this application improve nutrient distribution within pastures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
39. Does this application restore or protect riparian vegetation with a 35 foot buffer zone?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
40. Does this application convert cropland into rotational grazing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Orleans Local Working Group	
41. Is this application within the Memphremagog watershed?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
42. Does this application address stream bank erosion control?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
43. Does this application exclude animals from waterways?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
44. Does this application include a grazing plan to improve pasture quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
45. Does this application include practices that address soil compaction and/or soil erosion and/or water quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
White River Local Working Group	
46. Will this application exclude livestock from streams and wet areas and/or provide alternative water sources?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
47. Will this application include practices that will improve forage quality and grazing distribution?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
48. Will this application include practices that address soil compaction?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
49. Will this application include practices that address soil health concerns?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
50. Will this application include practices that will convert a livestock confinement to a pasture operation or increase intensive grazing system and rotation, or will convert annual cropland to permanent pasture?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Otter Creek Local Working Group	
51. Will the proposed project lead to better soil quality on degraded lands?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
52. Will this EQIP application reduce denuded heavy use areas through improved rotation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
53. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing streambank and stream crossing erosion in a pasture and hayland or will this EQIP application improve water quality by excluding grazing animals from watercourses?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
54. Will this EQIP application protect nesting grassland birds and/or enhance grassland bird species habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
55. Does this EQIP applicant have a nutrient management plan and does the application include practice identified in the nutrient management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Winooski Local Working Group	
56. Will the proposed project lead to better soil quality on degraded lands?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
57. Will the proposed project lead to better water quality by limiting access to adjacent waterways?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
58. Does the proposed project provide assurances for the protection of soil and water resources?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
59. Does this application address concentrated areas of feeding and watering, and plan for more even distribution of animal waste?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
60. Will this application reduce areas in the pasture that are denuded?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Essex Local Working Group	
61. Does application address excluding livestock from streams and waterways?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
62. Does this application include practices that control soil erosion on pasture and perennial cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

63. Does the application include a nutrient management plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
64. Does the application include practices that improve soil health by reducing compaction, improving fertility and/or building organic matter?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
65. Will this application include practices that will enhance grassland bird habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:
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This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: Signature Date:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: Signature Date:
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